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## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **MAYOR CONGRATULATES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR WINNING TWO BIG AWARDS**

*Awards single out the department's success saving cash, recycling greens*

Mayor Jerry Sanders congratulated the city's Environmental Services Department for winning two major awards – the first for saving an estimated \$4.4 million a year by streamlining operations, the second for taking creative and aggressive steps to recycle green waste.

The Solid Waste Association of North America, the leading professional association in the field of solid waste, presented these Awards of Excellence on Aug. 23 during its annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I'm enormously proud of our employees in our Environmental Services Department and applaud them for all their hard work and creativity," the mayor said. "These awards are well-deserved recognition."

The Environmental Services Department won a Silver Excellence in Collection Systems award for streamlining its trash-collection schedule without compromising service. Overhauling this schedule enabled the department to reduce its fleet size by 29 percent and eliminate 40 positions, saving an estimated \$4.4 million a year. There have been minimal impacts to residents eligible for trash pick-up.

The department received a Bronze Excellence in Composting for its efforts recycling organic waste into compost, mulch and wood chips. The landfill generates more than \$500,000 a year by selling this recycled material to the public.

"These two programs are outstanding examples of the city's and the Environmental Service Department's commitment to environment stewardship," said Chris Gonaver, the department's director. "We are always looking for better ways to deliver great service."

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